

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the specification as follows:

Insert the attached 16 pages of English language text and 2 pages Sequence Listing for the originally-filed French language copy of the application filed June 10, 2005.

Insert the attached new Sequence Listing in place of the originally-filed English language Sequence Listing.

Page 1, after the third paragraph, insert the following new paragraphs:

In the Journal of Clinical Microbiology, Vol. 38, No. 10, October 2000, p. 3623-30, Drancourt et al. report the results of the study of a collection of 177 isolates from various sources and of the identification thereof on the basis of the rRNAs.

However, the species given in this table are very different from the strains of the invention.

In the article published in the International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology, Vol. 44, No. 1, 1994, p. 74-82, Farrow et al. describe comparative studies between various species. The *Exiguobacterium* genus is mentioned, but no specification is given regarding species.

The article by Fröhling et al., in the International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology, Vol. 52, No. 4, July 2002, p. 1171-6, reports strains of

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Exiguobacterium undae sp.nov. and of *Exiguobacterium antarcticum* sp.nov. isolated from pond water.

These strains and the other species of the *Exiguobacterium* genus given have phylogenetic positions that are very distant from the strains of the invention.

The EMBL database document accession No. D 55730 gives the 16S rRNA of an *Exiguobacterium acetyllicum* clone, which also corresponds to a species different from that of the invention.

These documents report, respectively, the sequence of the 16S rRNA of *Exiguobacterium aurantiacum* (NDCDO 2321) and of *Exiguobacterium undae*. The comments given above in relation to the database document also apply.